

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

1. The Applicants present herewith drawing replacement sheets that incorporate, among other things, the corrections requested by an Examiner.

REMARKS

This Amendment and Reply seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. Certain claims have been amended to more fully protect the invention. None of these amendments were motivated by patentability considerations in view of the prior art, including the art presented or cited during the prosecution of this application. No new matter has been added.

In addition, the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of January 19, 2005 (hereinafter the "Office Action") have been addressed. No new matter has been added. The objections and rejections are addressed below in detail, and in the order presented in the Office Action.

Amendments to the Drawings

The Applicants present herewith drawing replacement sheets that incorporate, among other things, the corrections requested by an Examiner. In short, Applicants have amended the drawings to correlate the number identifiers in the text of the Specification with the number identifiers in the Drawings. No new matter has been added.

Notably, in accordance with Rule 1.121(d), the attached amended drawings include the requisite label "Replacement Sheet" in the header of each sheet.

Applicants respectfully request that these drawings be accepted.

Double Patenting Rejections

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, executed by the attorney of record, to address the Examiner's concerns regarding obviousness-type double patenting in view of certain claims of co-pending Application No. 10/724,377. This

Terminal Disclaimer is submitted to obviate all of the double patenting rejections, including those of Application No. 10/724,377 in view of Hamano (U.S. Patent 4,298,962). It is believed that the Terminal Disclaimer complies fully with the relevant parts of 37 CFR 1.321.

Applicants note the Examiner's comments regarding the teaching of Hamano. (See, Office Action, pages 6-7). No inference or conclusion should be drawn that Applicants agree, in any way, with the Examiner's characterization of Hamano. Applicants have discussed Hamano in a related application (i.e., Application Serial No. 10/727,742). In an effort to provide a more concise response and because the rejection is overcome, without more, via submission of the above-referenced Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants do not provide comments on the Examiner's characterization.

Moreover, while the Terminal Disclaimer is submitted to address the obviousness-type double patenting, no inference or conclusion should be drawn that Applicants agree, in any way, with the rejection. In an effort to expedite the prosecution, provide a more concise response, and because the rejection is overcome, without more, via submission of the above-referenced Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants do not provide substantive remarks regarding the merits of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Amendment, including the Terminal Disclaimer. Applicants submit that the pending claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

It is noted that should a telephone interview expedite the prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: February 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil A. Steinberg', written over a horizontal line.

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